

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 23407 311813Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 A-01 SP-02 PRS-01
INR-07 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /037 W
-----051753 311843Z /41 S
O 311241Z DEC 77 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3710

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 23407

FOR THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS
' TAGS: CVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 23350 EXDIS

1. SINCE JODY POWELL'S PRESS STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS CONSIDERING A VISIT TO EGYPT IN NEXT FEW DAYS, WE HAVE BEEN INNUNDATED WITH CALLS ASKING FOR CONFIRMATION THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL COME. AMONG OTHERS, V.P. MUBARAK CALLED THIS MORNING TO ASK IF THERE ANY FURTHER WORD ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S PLANS. CAIRO PRESS FRONT PAGES STORIES ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND VARIOUS PAPERS MENTIONED CAIRO, ISMAILIYA AND ASWAN AS SITES.

2. AS YOU KNOW, SADAT IS CURRENTLY IN ASWAN WITH FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND HIS PARTY. SADAT PLANS TO REMAIN IN ASWAN UNTIL JAN 8 OR 9. IN HIS MESSAGE OF LAST EVENING (REFTEL) HE ASSUMED THAT IF PRESIDENT CARTER DECIDES TO COME, VISIT WILL BE IN ASWAN.

3. I RECOGNIZE THAT GIVEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S ALREADY
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BUSY SCHEDULE, THE DECISION IS A DIFFICULT ONE. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL, HOWEVER, FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE WORD AS TO WHETHER THE VISIT WILL OR WILL NOT BE MADE. IF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION IS POSITIVE, AS I HOPE IT WILL BE, I WILL IN NEXT DAY OR TWO HAVE TO BEGIN DEPLOYING PERSONNEL TO ASWAN TO SUPPORT THE VISIT. EGYPTIAN FACILITIES AT ASWAN ARE LIMITED AND WITH SCHMIDT

PARTY THERE, THEY ARE ALREADY HEAVILY OVERTAXED. THIS MEANS EGYPTIANS WILL EXPECT US PROVIDE BULK OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT, WHICH IN ANY CASE IS DESIRABLE IN ASWAN WHERE EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL ARE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO VIP VISITORS. IF WE HAVE TO MOVE VEHICLES TO ASWAN (ABOUT 600 MILES SOUTH OF CAIRO) THEY WILL HAVE TO GET UNDERWAY NO LATER THAN MONDAY MORNING. ON CONTINGENCY BASIS, MY DAO HAS ASKED ATHENS DAO ABOUT POSSIBILITIES MAKING LATTER'S C-12 AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO ASSIST US IN RAPID MOVE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO ASWAN. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO23407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780004-0790
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977121/aaaaaaqd.tel
Line Count: 72
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 4fe120fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 23350
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 101403
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO EGYPT
TAGS: OVIP, EG, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4fe120fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009